

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: August 8, 2006

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:06 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 7:04 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Greg Bowes, Chair
Patrice Abdullah
James Bradford
Ginny Cain
Susie Day

ABSENT

Joanne Sanders
Paul Bateman

AGENDA

BUDGET HEARING

Children's Guardian Home
Noble of Indiana
Marion County Fair Board
Marion County Cooperative Extension Service

Community Affairs Committee

The Community Affairs Committee of the City-County Council met on Tuesday, August 8, 2006. Chair Greg Bowes called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. with the following members present: Patrice Abduallah, James Bradford, Ginny Cain, and Susie Day. Absent were Paul Bateman and Joanne Sanders.

BUDGET HEARING

Children's Guardian Home

Rose Butler, Director, Marion County Children's Guardian Home, stated that it was very much appreciated that the Marion County Fair took the time to entertain the children with a day at the Fair. She also thanked Sertoma and the Guild for making sure the children maintained a normal summer.

Ms. Butler distributed a handout with updated information from the Home.

{Clerk's Note: This packet, Exhibit A, is on file in the Clerk's office.}

Ms. Butler stated that due to collaboration between the Department of Child's Service (DCS), the Juvenile Court and the Casey Foundation, the Home may be seeing a payoff, as the numbers this year have been lower than last year. Ms. Butler stated that the main challenge, however, is that youth that are currently coming through the Home are having more special needs. They are staying longer, and the recidivism rate has jumped dramatically over the past few years. Ms. Butler also said that the special needs range anywhere from 42% to 65% of the population on any given day.

Ms. Butler stated that the Advisory Committee that was mentioned at the June, 2006 meeting has been organized and the first meeting of that committee is set for September 7, 2006 at the Guardian Home. Ms. Butler extended an invitation to the committee members to become a part of the Advisory Committee.

Ms. Butler stated that the Home is continuing to offset the public budget with private donor dollars. She said that in 2005, actual monetary gifts and gifts in kind, were over \$97,000. Ms. Butler stated that she did not bring a report but can provide such at a later date.

Chair Bowes asked if the 2005 numbers shown are accurate, with 37% Caucasian and 54% African American. Ms. Butler answered in the affirmative, stating that there has been a large change in a number of years.

Chair Bowes asked about the proposed increase of \$104,000 over the 2006 budget. Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, Office of Finance and Management, stated that two categories jumped dramatically in terms of the total increase. He said that in Character 01, health insurance and the pension amounts reflect higher costs that are anticipated. He also stated that there is an increase in Public Employee Retirement Fund (PERF) contributions from the County that resulted in an increase for all the county and city agencies. He stated that in Character 03, the big increase is due to Information Services Agency (ISA) charges, and that is a result of the way the allocations are made this year.

He stated that instead of the Controller and Auditor's Office picking up the majority of the cost and the rest being allocated to the agencies, the decision was made to have all costs allocated to all agencies proportioned to the number of employees. Every agency's budget, except for the Controller and Auditor's budget, will show an increase in ISA charges, and the budgets for the Auditor and Controller will show a corresponding decrease. Chair Bowes asked if there is a special fund to fund a particular agency, could that agency use the special revenue source. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Seidenstein stated that on page one of the Guardian Home's portion in the City Budget Book, the funding for the Guardian Home for 2007 is proposed to come from the Family and Children Services Fund rather than the General Fund. He stated that this is the first time that the Guardian Home is funded from a fund other than the General Fund. Chair Bowes asked what the purpose for this change is. Mr. Seidenstein stated that two things were the cause. One was that the City is under the pressure of making sure there are funds available for general government, public safety and criminal justice. The other reason is this particular agency has a lot to do with child welfare, so their appropriations were moved to the Child Welfare Fund.

Councillor Bradford asked if this process was started one year ago. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the negative, stating that the changes proposed for 2007 are new. Chair Bowes asked if the revenue source from each of these funds comes from property tax levy. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative. Chair Bowes asked if there was an option for the Home to receive Federal reimbursements. Brant Ping, Child and Adolescent Placement Project Agency, stated that the Guardian Home is not eligible for Federal reimbursements. They are a public institution serving over 25 children, and that makes them ineligible.

Councillor Bradford asked if there was a savings when the Home switched their food services. He also asked if the increase in line item 350 is due to some of the repairs the Home needed done. Bill Peddie, Assistant Director, Guardian Home, stated that those numbers reflect the contract for the HVAC. He said that initially they budgeted half, but it now brings it up to the total amount for the entire year at a reduced rate.

Ms. Butler clarified that half of the Home's budget has been reimbursed for many years now through DCS.

Councillor Bradford asked if there is a requirement by law to have the different agencies' budgets turned in by a certain time. Mr. Seidenstein stated that he does not think there is.

Councillor Abdullah asked if the \$2.5 million part of the increased budget for DCS includes the funds for the Guardian Home. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative, stating that when the budget for DCS is voted on, it will include the \$2.5 million.

Councillor Abdullah asked Mr. Seidenstein if he knew how much DCS was requesting in their budget. Mr. Seidenstein stated that it was included in the ordinance that the members received at Full Council. He stated that in Proposal No. 436, 2006 on page 12, DCS is requesting \$97.918 million, and \$2.3 million is in the Children's Psychiatric Residential Treatment Fund.

NOBLE OF INDIANA

Mike Howland, President and CEO
John Durkhart, Board Chairman, CEO Kittles Furniture

John Durkhart, CEO Kittles Furniture, stated that he has been connected with Noble for the past 16 years and has been on the board for six years. Mr. Durkhart stated that fellow associates at Kittles received the Employment Award from the Indianapolis Mayor's Advisory Council on Disabilities in 2001. Mr. Durkhart stated that the issues that Noble face are the same faced in everyday life, with too many needs and not enough resources during challenging economic times. He also stated that what compounds this issue is that Noble is impacting individuals who face enormous challenges just starting each day. Mr. Durkhart stated that the Board consists of 37 community leaders. These individuals dedicated their time, talent, and their personal resources in helping Noble transform the lives of Indianapolis residents who have developmental disabilities. Mr. Durkhart stated that each board member takes his job seriously. There are five formal meetings per year, and many serve on two or three committees that meet at least four or five times per year.. He stated that each board member is committed to helping Noble operate more as a business, increase public awareness, and look for new streams of revenue.

Mike Howland, President, Noble of Indiana, reviewed a Powerpoint presentation in detail, which is attached as Exhibit B. Some key points of the presentation were as follows:

- Noble serves 2,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities like Down's Syndrome
- Serving those with the most significant disabilities
- Designated the Mental Retardation / Developmental Disability (MR/DD) organization for Marion County
- 95% of consumers live in Marion County
- Launched first summer camp for children ages six through sixteen
- Offers therapy for school-aged children
- Added 72 new adult consumers
- Launched "Work Experience" program for day program consumers
- Grew the Work Crews program

Mr. Howland stated that Noble's consumers have volunteered over 5,000 hours at 59 different volunteer sites, and several have received Volunteer of the Year awards. Mr. Howland stated that one of the emerging programs is Art Therapy. Many of the consumers are non-verbal and they express themselves through art. Some of the artwork is

showcased at several Starbucks restaurants. Another program is Recreational Therapy. This program helps those individuals to stay healthy and grow in the knowledge of nutrition.

Mr. Howland stated that the Broad Ripple location was moved to the 6100 block of College Avenue to a bigger and better program space. This facility has a park and courtyard in the back for outdoor activities. He also stated that another success is to begin a Dream Team to help consumers achieve their goals. So far, they have fulfilled 13 dreams for consumers that have ranged from visiting a brother to something as simple as getting a pet. The first fundraiser for the Dream Team raised over \$3,000.

Mr. Howland stated that Noble has placed 82 consumers in community jobs and has launched the 31 Jobs in 31 Days program. He said that this program works wonders for Noble consumers and helps them become more independent.

Mr. Howland presented Noble's priorities for 2007. Some of the highlights were:

- Begin implementing the 2007-2009 Strategic Plan
- Renovate Noble East location. United Way is funding half of the renovations with a capital improvement grant
- Expand Art Therapy Program
- Continue integrating consumers into the workforce
- Expand Children's Services

Mr. Howland stated that since 2002, Noble has maintained services to approximately the same number of consumers, despite reducing staff salary expenses by 6.2 %. He stated that Noble has managed the rising health insurance costs, sustaining only a 9% increase in costs since 2000. He also said that Noble has frozen staff mileage reimbursement at 32.5 cents per mile. Noble has closed two locations while expanding their capacity to serve more consumers at the four remaining sites and in the community. Mr. Howland stated that despite efforts to cut costs, some significant financial challenges Noble faces are the rising fuel expenses that have increased 83% in the last four years. That is in addition to the \$300,000 that Noble pays IndyGo each year to transport their consumers to and from Noble.

Mr. Howland stated that the \$1 million dollars Noble received can be looked at in a number of ways. It can be looked at as supporting all of the things that were mentioned or, if broken down, those funds serve 283 adults with the most significant challenges.

Mr. Howland stated that Noble contributes to Indianapolis being well rounded. Noble serves a very important function by helping a community to embrace individuals with disabilities so that they can enjoy and contribute to their community.

Libby Snails and daughter Angie have been associated with Noble for over 20 years. Ms. Snails stated that it has been very vital to have Noble's Service. Ms. Snails stated that her

daughter Angie really enjoys going to Noble each day and is treated with respect. Noble knows each and every consumer by their first name and they receive the best of care. She said that Noble offers many different things for their consumers to participate in. Ms. Snails stated that she hopes the committee will support Noble just as she has.

Chair Bowes asked if the funds Noble is requesting are the same as last year. Mr. Seidenstein answered in the affirmative. Chair Bowes asked what portion of Noble's total budget is provided with this amount. Mr. Howland stated that it is approximately 9.5%. Chair Bowes asked if Noble has seen a change in the trend for fundraising. Mr. Howland stated that Noble has stayed about even and has worked very hard to try and tell their story and demonstrate the needs they have. He stated that Noble has been very fortunate to be able to increase a little bit from those donations.

Councillor Bradford stated that he is truly appreciative to Noble for the work they do in the community. Councillor Cain thanked Noble and their consumers for all they do and appreciates all that she has learned from them.

MARION COUNTY FAIR BOARD

Don Pennington, President
Nadeen Biddinger, Treasurer

Mr. Pennington distributed a handout, which is attached as Exhibit C, with information on the request for funding. Some of the key points of Mr. Pennington's request are as follows:

2006 Accomplishments

- Replaced support beams on the Outdoor Concert Stage
- Repaired roofs on the Horse Barn and other buildings
- Hail damage to roofs, skylights, and windows are in the process of being fixed
- Obtaining Sponsorships
- Sound Barriers and painting donated

Mr. Pennington went on to say that the Fairgrounds is looking into creative revenue sources, including sponsorships, grant applications, and billboard space rental. Mr. Pennington stated that one of the challenges the Fair is facing is recovering from the hail storm and the damage it caused. The damage was \$58,000 with depreciation insurance settled for \$25,000. He also stated that during the operating of the Fair this year, a water pump burned out when an Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL) transformer blew out.

Mr. Pennington stated that the Fairground facilities are used year-round. Some of the revenue that comes in is from the grounds rental (April-October), storage of boats, trailers, RV's, wedding and religious activities, and indoor and outdoor concerts.

Mr. Pennington stated that some immediate needs are: engineering services to prepare the grounds for sewer and water lines, restroom facilities replacement and replacement of all plumbing fixtures. He also said that roof repair, grounds maintenance, and an upgrade for the electrical system to meet code requirements and increased demand are also needed.

Mr. Pennington stated that the Fair's improvement needs are going to cost roughly around \$320,000 for those immediate needs. He also said that any support given is truly appreciated.

Nadeen Biddinger, Treasurer, Marion County Fair Board, stated that the budget for this year, with a credit from last year's actual through June 2006, is right on target. She stated that the fair income is at a lower amount through July and they still have more fair income to add, and will meet their targeted income. Ms. Biddinger stated that after meeting their budgeted amount, \$36,000 extra will be dedicated towards the capital improvements.

Chair Bowes asked what is proposed in the budget for the Fair Board. Mr. Seidenstein stated that the proposed amount is \$80,000, which is the same as last year. Chair Bowes asked with the appropriation that the fair will receive, will the fair be able to operate on its own. Ms. Biddinger answered in the affirmative stating that they hope to get some additional grants that will help with some of the improvements.

Councillor Bradford asked if Ms. Biddinger has checked with the State and Homeland Security for funding. Ms. Biddinger answered in the negative and stated that this information will be checked.

Chair Bowes asked if there is any way to secure more funding for the fair board. Mr. Seidenstein stated that it will be the decision of the Council as to how the funds are allocated. He said that with the current public safety issues, the City is trying to find funds to combat those issues.

MARION COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Ron Hoyt, Executive Director
Davida Hutson, Fiscal Deputy

Mr. Hoyt stated that there is a correction on the narrative page of the budget book that states, "Purdue Extension-Marion County will leverage local budget resources to generate an additional \$1.9 million in state, federal and private program support." The \$1.9 million needs to be changed to \$1.3 million.

Mr. Hoyt stated that the Cooperative Extension Service is one of the nation's largest providers of scientific research-based information and education through colleges, universities, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture in partnership with communities and counties across America. He stated that Cooperative Extension is very diverse in types of educational programs that are offered.

Mr. Hoyt stated that one of the programs offered is: Nutrition Education, which is 100% federally funded with no County dollars invested in that program. He stated that this program is estimated to save families \$2.2 million in reduced health care costs. The Financial Literacy program will help consumers complete education and certification that will allow them access to financial services to collectively save an estimated \$1.4 million over the next five years.

Mr. Hoyt gave a handout and stated that the handout provided concerns the 2007 total operating budget of about \$2.2 million. Of that, the County contributes (in the current requested budget) \$886,000, which is approximately 40% of the total. Purdue contributes \$1.15 million, which is approximately 52%, and the rest comes from grants and contracts. The Extension is generating about \$166,000 a year in income. Mr. Hoyt reviewed a second handout that breaks down how those dollars are received.

Mr. Seidenstein stated that the changes in Character 01 are primarily fringe benefits, health insurance, and pension. He also stated that there was a small increase for salaries. The Controller's office did not fund the request of Cooperative Extension at the level that they had originally requested. They asked for funding for one more support staff person and for contractual dollars from another educator which was not funded, so that is not included in the figures. Mr. Seidenstein stated that the other big change is in Character 03 regarding ISA charges. This particular agency had a large percentage increase, not so much dollar- wise. It was just added into their budget and did not make them cut elsewhere to absorb that increase.

Mr. Hoyt stated that many of those changes in Character 03 are a result of leasing out office space to another Purdue entity over the last year. Those numbers reflect where the agency has been able to have some additional cost savings by sharing with some of the other partners in the office and then re-allocating those dollars elsewhere in Character 03. Chair Bowes asked if the \$16,000 increase in line item 371 offsets the other negative items. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative stating that when the \$16,000 was originally cast, Cooperative Extension was actually looking at alternative space. One of the unique features of the way the lease was originally cast was that the furniture was rolled into the original lease. Anticipating that they might find themselves in an alternate location, they separated the cost of the furniture into a separate line item. Now that the lease has been re-cast, the funds are being put back into the line item.

Chair Bowes asked if this is one of those agencies where it is required by State law to provide funding and provide a County office. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative, stating that funding is required for the operating infrastructure, which includes the office space, clerical support staff, paper, and the cost of the educators' salary which is shared with Purdue. Chair Bowes asked if this agency is a state-wide program and under State law each County has to support their County office. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative.

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Councillor Bradford asked if Mr. Hoyt is confident that Cooperative Extension will receive the same funding from Purdue with all the recent changes going on with the legislature and the new president of Purdue. Mr. Hoyt answered in the affirmative.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Community Affairs Committee of the City County Council was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Bowes, Chair
Community Affairs Committee

GB/lw